



SPORTING APPARATUS SUITED FOR FISHING AND HUNTING

The present application is a continuation-in-part of serial number 09/551,212, filed 04/07/00, now patent 6,715,230, which is a continuation-in-part of S.N. 09/436,039, filed 11/08/99, now patent 6,347,532, which was in turn a continuation-in-part of S.N. 08/959,801, filed 10/29/97, now patent 6,170,189.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to sporting equipment and more particularly to a sporting apparatus suited for fishing and hunting.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The general objective of the present invention is to provide a supporting apparatus that can serve as an improved fishing reel holder that can be used for any kind of fishing but is particularly well suited for ice fishing, *i.e.*, fishing on a frozen lake through an opening in the ice. While fishing devices have been previously proposed for this purpose, the fisherman often becomes uncomfortable because there is no place to sit and the fishing equipment is of no assistance in this regard. One object of the invention is thus to provide a fishing reel holder that can also be used as a seat for the fisherman.

Prior fishing equipment is not well suited for supporting a conventional fishing rod as well as a separate ice fishing reel. Accordingly, another object of the invention is to provide a fishing reel holder that can be used for simultaneously supporting a fishing reel of the kind used for ice fishing as well as a conventional fishing rod.



Refer now to Figs. 32-38 which illustrate additional features of the invention that provide support for various sporting articles during use but which ~~enable~~^{enable} them to be disassembled or knocked down for storage in a compact bundle when not in use.

Refer now particularly to Figs. 32 and 32A wherein the same numerals refer to corresponding parts already described. The tackle box 303 serves as a rigid receptacle for use in fishing, namely for holding articles such as fishing tackle, and includes spaced apart generally vertically disposed end walls 600, 602, side walls 604, 608, and an upper open wide mouth 606. The box 303 has a removable top 302 that is hinged to the lower part of the tackle box 303 as already described and can be held in a closed position by means of latches 416, 418 which are connected to projections 422 and 424, respectively, on the cover 302 when the top of the tackle box is closed. Mounted on the inside walls 600, 602 in the lower portion of the tackle box 303 are a pair of horizontally spaced apart and opposed substantially identical sockets 610 and 612. Each of the sockets 610, 612 has a vertically disposed opening or slot with a rectangular cross-section adapted to receive the vertical arm of an L-shaped bracket 616. Each of the sockets 610, 612 is provided with a vertically disposed, centrally located slot 624. A clamping screw 626 extends through the slot 624 and is screw-threaded into a threaded hole 625 (Fig. 32A) in each bracket 616 for allowing the height of each of the brackets 616 to be adjusted by first raising or lowering the bracket

locking bearing pivot 718 is used to support an accessory holder that has a hollow tubular portion 790 within an open upper end 792 for receiving accessories such as a fishing rod 794 or other articles that can be used for fishing and/or hunting and/or fishing such as spotting scopes for hunting, lamps for illumination, or hunting rifles, trays for holding fishing lures and like. equipment . While the accessory holder 790 is shown with a right angle bend it can if desired be made straight with no bend as shown in 796 in dashed lines.

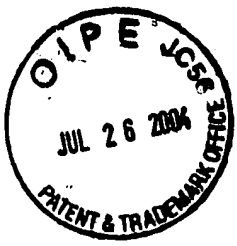
Many variations of the present invention within the scope of the appended claims will be apparent ^{to those} skilled in the art once the principles described herein are understood.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the sliding connection comprises a pivot pin extending from the support member.
4. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the support member includes an opening and the bracket includes an end portion adapted to be connected to the support member adjacent the opening..
5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the sporting article comprises a tackle box having a plurality of said support members thereon for mounting the bracket thereupon in different locations on the tackle box.
6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the pivot between the support arm and bracket includes a plurality of radially extending interfitting grooves and ridges surrounding the axis of the pivot and a resilient member for yieldably biasing the ridges into engagement with the grooves ~~where~~ thereby retaining the arm in any of said selected positions about said pivot.
7. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the support member is connected to a fishing tackle box, a vertically disposed pin extends from the support member and the bracket is pivotally mounted upon the pin whereby the bracket can be articulated about a vertical axis at the center of the pin and the arm can be raised and lowered to selected positions about said pivot between the bracket and the arm.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sporting apparatus especially for fishing is supported on a tackle box, pail or other receptacle and includes a reel rotateably mounted at the free end of a supporting arm. The arm is in turn pivotally mounted upon a bracket which serves as a base and is connected to the tackle box or other article.. The arm is connected to the bracket so as to be able to swing about the pivot from a raised to a lowered position and releasably held in any of a number of selected positions by the provision of a releasable lock proximate the pivot between the arm and the bracket to support the arm in the selected position e.g. raised to a 45 degree incline, horizontal or extending downwardly as desired. Provision is also made for moving the bracket from one part of the tackle box to another or to a different support receptacle such as a plastic pail or to suspend the arm and reel from the wall of an ice fish house. A visual and radio signal transmitters are also provided for letting the fisherman ^{know} there has been a strike on the line. Other forms of receptacles with sockets for supporting fishing equipment are also described.



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